

Mary Kay Adkinson of Wichita, KS, his paternal grandmother Mary Ellen Adkinson of Duncan, OK, and maternal grandmother Sharon Kay Morgan of Wichita, KS.

SGT David Shearouse served with Trinity and was given the task of escorting his remains home. "He always wanted to take point, he wanted to be the leader," he said of his fallen comrade. "Everybody wanted to be like him. He was a good man. I lost my friend, my brother and my hero."

The family held a funeral service for Sergeant Adkinson on September 13, 2010, and he was laid to rest with full military honors in Fort Sill National Cemetery in Elgin, OK.

Today we remember Army SGT Vinson B. Adkinson III, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SERGEANT JASON L. MCCLUSKEY

Madam President, I would also like to pay tribute to SGT Jason L. McCluskey. Jason was tragically killed in action on November 4, 2010, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with small-arms fire in Zarghun Shahr, Mohammad Agha district of Afghanistan.

Jason was born September 12, 1984, to Jimmy and Delores "Darby" McCluskey in Stockton, CA, and later moved to McAlester, OK. As a wrestler at McAlester High School he went to the State championship tournament several times before graduating in 2004. Quoting James Dean in his senior quote, he wrote: "Dream as if you will live forever. And live as if you will die today."

Upon enlisting in the Army in April 2006, he was assigned as a paratrooper to the 27th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC. "SGT McCluskey was a true hero to us all," said 1SG Randolph Delapena, his company first sergeant. "He was like my son that I saw come up the ranks to become an elite non-commissioned officer. He was the edge of the sword, he led from the front, and he cared deep down for not only his Soldiers, but every Soldier he came in contact with."

His mother, Delores Oliveras, said shortly after her son's death that Jason was dedicated to serving in the Army. "I asked him plenty of times to leave the Army," she said. "But all he would say was, 'No, Mom, I really love what I do.'" Shortly before his death, he was named his battalion's Non-commissioned Officer of the Year.

McCluskey is survived by his son Landon McCluskey, mother Delores Darby McCluskey Oliveras and her husband Ray, father Jimmy McCluskey, brother Joshua Stambaugh, stepfather Charlie Stambaugh, grandmother Anita McCluskey, grandmother Wilma Kohl and her husband Doyle, mother of his son, Cassie Wright, and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, as well as many other relatives, friends, and loved ones too numerous to mention.

A funeral was held on November 12, 2010, at Chaney Harkins Funeral Home, and he was laid to rest in Tannehill Cemetery in McAlester, OK.

"Our Army and nation will be forever indebted to SGT McCluskey for his service," said Major General Rodney O. Anderson from Fort Bragg. "SGT McCluskey laid down his life for his friends, his battle buddies, his unit, our Army and our nation."

Today we remember Army SGT Jason L. McCluskey, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

CAPTAIN DAVID J. THOMPSON

Madam President, I am also honoring the life and sacrifice of a true American hero, Army CPT David J. Thompson. Captain Thompson died on January 29, 2010, at Forward Operating Base Nunez, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained while supporting combat operations.

Known as John Paul—JP for short—by many, he was born on May 25, 1970, and listed Hooker, OK, as his home of record. In 1989 he enlisted in the Army and completed basic combat training and advanced individual training at Fort Jackson, SC.

John Paul served in a wide variety of jobs during his military career. His first assignment was as a radio telephone operator and team chief for the Regimental Signal Detachment, 75th Ranger Regiment and communications sergeant for the Regimental Reconnaissance Detachment with the 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA. From 1995 to 1998, he served in AK as a rifle squad leader and platoon sergeant with the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment. He later served as a staff noncommissioned officer with the Command Operations Center, U.S. Army AK.

From January 1999 to May 2002, while attending East Carolina University, he served with the 514th Military Police Company, NC Army National Guard. In May 2002 he completed a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry and was commissioned as a chemical officer. Following his officer basic course, he was assigned to 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY, as the division chemical logistics officer. In March 2003 he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment and served as a battle captain and rifle platoon leader for his first deployment supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Then, from June 2004 to November 2005, he served as the battalion adjutant and rear detachment commander. From August to December 2008 he served as executive officer for Company C, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) and held that position until taking command of Operational Detachment Alpha 3334, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, NC, in January 2009.

Captain Thompson was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA, on February 15, 2010.

John Paul is survived by his wife Emily and their two daughters, Isabelle and Abigail of Pinehurst, NC; parents Charles and Freida Thompson of Hinton, OK; and sister Alisa Mueller.

Today we remember Army CPT David J. Thompson, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

REGARDING U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, as the conflict in Gaza continues to escalate, we mourn the tragic loss of lives and hope for a speedy and peaceful resolution. Israelis and Palestinians have both seen far too much bloodshed and destruction.

I cosponsored S. Res. 498 because I stand by Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas' indiscriminate attacks. No country in the world would be expected to stand by as its people are threatened with rocket fire. But both sides should do everything possible to deescalate and end this battle. I urge Hamas to end its attacks and to renounce its mission of annihilating Israel, and I urge Israel to exercise restraint and proportional force, tailoring its tactics to protect innocent lives.

There can and must be an end in sight for the violence that is now engulfing the region. I support calls for an immediate ceasefire. The United States must continue to stand ready to help facilitate a solution and a path forward toward both security and economic development, which are essential elements for any enduring peace.

BOOTHBAY, MAINE 250TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President. I wish to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Town of Boothbay, ME. Boothbay was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today, and this is a time to celebrate the generations of hard-working and caring people who have made it such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

The year of Boothbay's incorporation, 1764, was but one milestone in a long journey of progress, a journey that is inextricably linked to the sea. For thousands of years the Boothbay Peninsula was a fishing grounds of the Etchemin Tribe, and the extensive shell middens and other archeological sites are today a treasure trove of this ancient history.

Drawn by one of the finest natural harbors in New England, English settlement began within a few years of the Pilgrims landing at Plymouth in 1620. The early English influence is underscored by the fact that some of the first deeds granted to the settlers were signed by the Etchemin Sagamore, who was called Chief Robinhood by the newcomers. By 1764, Boothbay was a growing town with an economy driven by

fishing, shipbuilding, and tidal-powered sawmills. The wealth produced by the sea and by hard work was invested in schools and churches to create a true community.

Boothbay was a vital center for revolutionary activity during America's fight for independence. The strategic importance of the harbor put the small town under frequent enemy attack, and more than 100 patriots rose to its defense. During the war Captain Paul Reed established himself as one of our young nation's ablest and most courageous naval commanders. The Reverend John Murray was an eloquent and fearless voice for freedom, and his powerful words called many to its cause.

In the decades that followed, Boothbay became a place of industry and innovation with such endeavors as fish processing, canning, and fish-oil production. During the 1830s, Boothbay's bracing sea breezes and crystal-clear waters made it an early health spa, and by the end of the 19th century the town became a favorite destination for vacationers and summer residents.

Today the people of Boothbay continue to build on those traditions. Fishing and lobstering are mainstays of the economy. Fine hotels, inns, and restaurants support a thriving tourism industry. Boatyards build luxury yachts, fishing boats, and advanced vessels for military and law-enforcement purposes. Since its founding in 1974, the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences has become a global leader in oceanographic research. Lobster boat races, the annual Windjammer Days, and the Fishermen's Festival celebrate the town's maritime heritage, and the restored Opera House provides a beautiful venue for arts and entertainment.

This 250th anniversary is not just about something that is measured in calendar years. It is about human accomplishment, an occasion to celebrate the people who for more than two and a half centuries have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a community. Thanks to those who came before, Boothbay has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL WILLIAM L. SHELTON

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I wish to recognize Gen. William L. Shelton, commander of Air Force Space Command, on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Air Force.

Over the course of his 38-year career in the U.S. Air Force, General Shelton has served with great distinction and made countless sacrifices for our country. I join with all Coloradans in commending his service, the sacrifices of his family—including his wife Linda and their two children, Sara and Joel—and I offer my great personal appreciation for his leadership and devotion to our Nation's security.

A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, General Shelton's selection as the commander of Air Force Space Command in January 2011 culminates a distinguished career that began in 1976 at the Space and Missile Test Center at Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA. In a career dedicated to the space enterprise, he commanded units at Falcon-Schriever, F.E. Warren, Offutt, Vandenberg, and Peterson Air Force Bases. He also provided valuable leadership and counsel to the Secretary of the Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and the Joint Staff during multiple headquarters U.S. Air Force assignments. His positive leadership had a direct and positive impact on countless men and women in our Armed Forces, and his legacy will benefit the United States and our space policy for generations to come.

Throughout his career, General Shelton has been a vigilant advocate for our national security space programs. As the commander of Air Force Space Command, he was responsible for organizing, training and equipping more than 40,000 military and civilian personnel to assure space and cyberspace capabilities for the combatant commands and for the Nation. While those capabilities clearly contribute to our military's technological and strategic superiority, they also have become essential in humanitarian and disaster relief efforts—and they are now vital assets for the global community and world economy. As a result of his leadership, the Air Force has established a truly impressive record of successful space launches while developing an acquisition regime that has led to greater mission assurance and simultaneous cost savings across the Department of Defense. Further, his vision of future space capabilities will position the military to provide resilient, capable, and affordable space operations for the joint forces and the Nation well into the future.

General Shelton established and sustained an unmatched level of success during a time of increasing challenges. He has worked closely with the Senate Armed Services Committee, and the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, which I am proud to chair. It has been our great privilege to work with him. His frank and informed discussions of our space systems, including the global positioning satellite system, have helped leaders and citizens around the world appreciate the value and need to protect our Nation's foundational space capabilities. I am personally grateful for General Shelton's wise counsel and firm resolve to always do what is best for the Nation and for the airmen he has led. He is a leader of exceptional intellect, candor, and integrity, and his deeply held commitment to doing the right thing for the right reasons is clear to all who have been fortunate enough to work with him.

With nearly four decades of exemplary service to our Nation, Gen. William L. Shelton deserves our most

heartfelt gratitude and praise. He and his family have my very best wishes for a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement. Our Nation and our Air Force are better for his leadership and distinguished service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HOWARD COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Howard County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$12.4 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memories of working together have to include their tremendous success in obtaining funds from a variety of programs I fought for including farm bill funding, public safety programs, and firefighter safety equipment.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal